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The Morning Star

# NORTHERN CHEYENNE TRIBE

## ADMINISTRATION

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March 16, 2009

33  
EXHIBIT Additional  
DATE 3/12/09  
# 645

House Appropriations Standing Committee  
House of Representatives  
61<sup>st</sup> Montana Legislature  
Helena, Montana

Attention: J. David Roundstone/HD 41

Subject: House Bill No. 645/Northern Cheyenne Stimulus Projects

Dear Members of the Committee:

I would like to thank Representative David Roundstone, who represents the Big Horn County portion of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation for bringing this request to your attention. As a tribal member and Tribal Health Director, David can certainly speak to the need for each of the projects discussed in this letter.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe is actively pursuing additional Federal funds appropriated by the *American Recovery and Reinvestment act of 2009* (Pub. L. 111-5/ARRA). As you know, this important economic stimulus plan, in the amount of \$787 billion, contains language that authorizes State governments to receive and expend Federal funds made available by ARRA. While there is no specific provision in the legislation mandating direct funding to Federally recognized Tribal governments from the States, we are acutely aware of President Obama's emphasis regarding procedures to ensure implementation and compliance with the law and hope that you will fund Tribal projects through the State Stimulus monies.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe understands that accountability is a crucial aspect of the ARRA and has initially responded to the notices of the availability additional funding by listing projects that have been determined to be "shovel ready" to meet the "time obligation" requirements for expenditure of ARRA funds. While we know, that you will be limited in your ability to fund all the requests which come before you, we respectfully urge you to include some of the following projects for in the State of Montana's Stimulus Package.

Our urgent Tribal projects are focused on much needed community infrastructure improvements and access to credit and capital which would offer a viable opportunity for immediate job creation to stimulate the local Reservation economy. We request the

LITTLE WOLF AND MORNING STAR - Out of defeat and exile they led us back to Montana and won our Cheyenne homeland that we will keep forever.

opportunity to access ARRA funds required by Federal law to be awarded and distributed in a prompt, fair and reasonable manner. The following is a brief description and narrative of the Northern Cheyenne tribal projects that are "shovel ready". They will have a significant impact on our Reservation and on the surrounding community as it is reasonable to expect much of the construction contracting will be awarded to non-Indian firms.

**Little Wolf Capital Building Improvement Project:** (\$325,000) Construction of the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Capital Building was completed in 1997, replacing the original Tribal Headquarters that was destroyed by fire in 1988. Over \$4 million was raised by the Tribe to construct the present Capital Building from a variety of funding sources. The building is in urgent need of several major repairs all of which relate to energy efficiency and public safety including: Replacement of existing faulty fiberglass shingle roof with metal; installation of fascia/soffett not completed by the original contractor; boiler repairs; repairs in the internal and external fire sprinkler system; and repairs to exterior concrete steps and walkways.

The Tribal Office serves as the business hub of the Reservation, housing the Tribal Administration, Legislative Branch and majority of Federal, State and Tribal programs providing services the Tribal Community. The estimated cost of essential repairs have obtained been from existing maintenance contractors, for example Mechanical Technologies, Inc; Tribal Maintenance staff, N.C. Tribal Housing Authority and local TERO certified contractors.

**Solid Waste Transfer Facility:** (\$500,000) to purchase of equipment to collect and transport solid waste on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation, covering Big Horn and Rosebud Counties. This sanitation project has been developed by the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority and consulting engineers to address hazardous and unsanitary conditions in the community. In Phase 1 a solid waste transfer station was built by the Tribe in 2008/09 at a cost of 1.2 million. When equipment is obtained, this project will become self-sustaining with a fee system based on curbside trash collection.

**Northern Cheyenne Dialysis Center:** (1.5 million) An October, 2008 feasibility study prepared by Edwards Enterprises/Healthcare Consultants indicates that an estimated start-up cost for a thirty (30) patient dialysis center on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation would cost approximately \$1.5 million dollars. Services from this facility would be available to residents of surrounding off-reservation communities. The cost estimate includes administration, labor, treatment costs, facility and equipment costs, and purchase of modular unit(s) or a remodeling alternative for the Indian Health Service facility in Lame Deer. Patients currently travel over one hundred mile to Billings, Montana. A local dialysis center would improve the quality of life for patients and reduce the stress on family and friends.

**Reconstruction of U.S. Highway 212 from the Big Horn County line to Crow/Northern Cheyenne Reservation boundary:** (Cost undetermined) Resurfacing, at approximately \$4 million plus project, of this segment of highway on the Reservation

has been scheduled by the Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT), scheduled to begin in 2009. Our Tribe is advocating MDOT's engineering of this project for complete reconstruction. The Tribal Council has passed legislation formally requesting reconstruction to improve this heavily used roadway for safety and commerce purposes.

**Lame Deer and Muddy Cluster Water System Improvement Project:** (Phase 11 - \$750,000) This project will provide clean water to community members who have not had access to high quality domestic water supplies. Project engineering has been completed by Dowl/HKM Engineers. The construction estimate for all phases of this project has been set at \$6,740,000 for this infrastructure project and the Tribal Utilities Commission has generated over one million for Phase 1 which will begin in the summer of 2009.

**Bison Pasture Fencing Project:** (\$393,200) Tribally owned bison, 125 animals, are utilized for economic (guided hunts) and ceremonial purposes. Fencing an estimated twenty-six (26) miles for a secure bison pasture is a tribal priority. The cost estimate for the Tribal bison pasture was developed using a GPS mapping system and Montana Natural Resource and Conservation Service guidelines for a Wildlife fence.

**Wind Energy Project:** (64 million) Distributed Generation Systems, Inc. (DISGEN), the Tribe's technical consultant, assisted the Tribe in completing a feasibility study and environment assessment for a commercial wind energy project on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 2005. The project would produce 30 megawatts of electrical power. Project financing, sale of the electricity, and accessing the power grid for this clean energy project are remaining project items.

**Boy's & Girl's Club Building Improvement project.** (\$275,000) The 15,000 square-foot building occupied by the Boy's & Girl's Club also serves as a community center on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. The building includes a gym, classrooms, meeting rooms, offices and kitchen facilities, but it is 36 years old. The building needs air-conditioning and the following repairs: existing boiler, pumps, HV units and fintube; electrical upgrades and a commercial hot water heater.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe has been monitoring the initial implementing guidance for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and has received initial instructions and recommendations from the Montana Congressional delegation, Federal and State officials to formally submit our Tribal projects to the pertinent State and Federal offices assigned to award and distribute ARRA funds. Therefore, we feel it is appropriate to submit them for your consideration. Complete detailed project information is available.

Please contact me for any additional information you may require. We look forward to working with you in a partnership effort to ensure that President Obama's Stimulus reaches all parts of our great State. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leroy Spang".

Leroy Spang, President  
Northern Cheyenne Tribe

c.c. Tribal Council

cc: file/vpres/nctc